UAB SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Pathology
Oral Pathology

April 12, 2000

Stuart Bondurant, MD
The Committee to Assess the Science Base
For Harm Tobacco Harm Reduction
Institute of Medicine
FO 3047
2101 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20418

Dear Dr. Bondurant,

It is my understanding that your committee has been charged with the evaluation of the sustained use of certain types of products for the reduction, but not necessarily cessation, of traditional tobacco products.

Our research group, based at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, has devised a harm reduction strategy for cigarette smoking that involves the substitution of smokeless tobacco products. I have taken the liberty to include reprints of our published research, which has included the evaluation of various forms of tobacco use on life expectancy (*Nature*, *Epidemiology*), a pilot study of the application of our model (*American Journal of Medicine*) and a broader perspective on nicotine maintenance for cigarette smokers (*Technology*).

In Sweden this model of tobacco harm reduction is already working. Swedish men, the world's largest per-capita consumers of smokeless tobacco for most of the last century, exhibit very low smoking prevalence. There is increasing evidence that both men and women are in fact using smokeless tobacco to quit smoking. In addition, last autumn Sweden became the first country in the world to reach the WHO smoking prevalence target of 20%.

If I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brad Rodu

Brad Rodu
Professor

The University of Alabama at Birmingham
156 Lyons Harrison Building •701 South 19th St.
Birmingham, Alabama 35294-0007 • (205) 934-3380 • FAX (205) 975-5200

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